TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

SLOVAKIA

(SLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA)

Rybnik
Kraków
Tarnów
Lubaczów
Šumperk
Tychy
Rzeszów
Česká Třebová
Ostrava
Kęty
POLAND
Przemyśl
Bielsko-Biała
Jasło
Sambor
CZECH REPUBLIC
Frýdek-Místek
Łącko
Nowy Sącz
Dukla
Sanok
Přerov
Nowy Targ
Krynica
L'VIV
Brno
Czarna
Bardejov
Zlín
Poprad
Vinohrádky
Snina
Trenčín
Prešov
Břeclav
Banská Bystrica
Spišská Nová Ves
Košice
UKRAINE
Hodonín
Uzhhorod
Topoľčany
SLOVAKIA
AUSTRIA
Zvolen
Trnava
Nitra
Nová Baňa
Sátoraljaújhely
Mukachëvo
Erdőbénye
Ózd
Vienna
(Wien)
Nové Zámky
Salgótarján
Miskolc
Berehove
Nyíregyháza
Eger
Satu Mare
Komárno
Gyöngyös
Sopron
Tata
Carei
Győr
Budapest
Tisza
Debrecen
Gyalóka
Gyömöre
HUNGARY
Karcag
ROMANIA
Szombathely

BACKGROUND

Full Name: Slovak Republic

Capital: Bratislava

Population: 5,396,193 (est)

Type of government: Parliamentary dem

Head of government: PM Mikulas Dzuri

Official language(s) Slovak

Economy: EmergingCapitalist

Religions: Catholic (60%)

TRAVEL

INFORMATION

Travel restrictions: None

International Airport: Bratislava

Flights from Frankfurt: None

Other methods of arrival: Road/Rail

U.S. Embassy address: Hviezdoslavovo Namestie 4, Bratislava
Tel: 421-7-5443-0861 FAX: 421-7-5441-8856

Transportation: Public transportation: Satisfactory.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Good.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Satisfactory.

Availability of roadside assistance: Good. The roads in Slovakia are typically safe and well maintained. Most roads outside of built-up areas are two lanes only. Aggressive drivers attempting to pass others at unsafe speeds pose a serious hazard. Due to poor lighting and narrow, winding roads, nighttime driving outside of built-up areas is not

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: For official travel, a no-fee passport is required. Visas are required for stays of more than 30 days. A visa is not required for stays of 30 days or less. Military and civilian personnel require passports, leave forms and ID cards. A visa is not required for stays of 30 days or less. A visa is required if staying more than 30 days.Visa must be obtained prior to entry into Slovakia. Military personnel transiting Slovakia in support of Bosnian Peace Follow-on Operations need not have passports but shall have in their possession military identification cards to present to border officials. Gasoline is readily available throughout Slovakia. Gas stations typically do not offer repair services, and private mechanics must be found. As few gas stations and mechanics accept Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required.

Duty-free entry for personal effects. Slovak customs authorities may enforce strict regulations concerning temporary importation into or export from Slovakia of items

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Entry by car requires registration papers, valid International Drivers License, and Personal Liability Insurance valid for Slovakia. "Green card" or "blue card" valid for Slovakia are acceptable. In some cases insurance can be purchased at the border. Tourist facilities are not as developed as those found in Western Europe and many of the goods and services taken for granted in other European countries are not yet available. Dual nationals may be subject to Slovak laws, which impose special obligations. Taking photographs of anything that could be perceived as being of military or security interest may result in problems with authorities. Taxi companies provide generally reliable, safe and economical services. Use of independent taxis is not recommended. Vans are not available as public transport. Buses are mechanically safe but there have been many reports of thefts on city buses, and of harassment by transport police. A highway user decal must be purchased for travel on certain heavily used segments Amembassy operating hours are 0800-1630L Mon-Fri..

MONEY

Currency restrictions: There is no limit on the import of US or other foreign currency. However, some places may not accept US $100 bills due to a counterfeiting problem. Import and export of local currency is prohibited. Local currency must be obtained thru government-authorized sources (banks, hotels, or change offices at border crossing points).

Rate: Approximate: 43 Slovak koruna for $1.

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, arthropod-borne diseases, STDs, cold injuries, heat injuries and industrial pollution.

Availability of medical services: Adequate medical care is readily available.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Slovakia. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed

Status of hospitals: Good

Health Precautions: Although medical facilities are available, they are limited, particularly in remote areas and only a limited number of doctors are English-speaking.

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B, typhoid, influenza, and TD.

FORCE PROTECTION

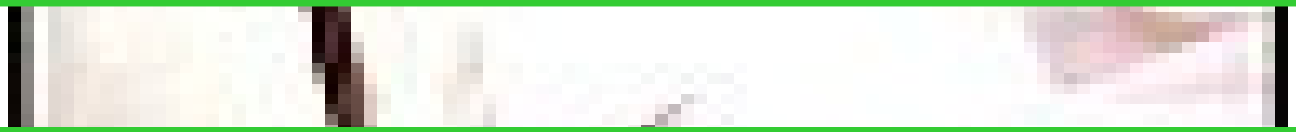
Country Clearance is needed for high-ranking officers traveling to the Czech Republic. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

Instances of purse snatching, robberies, and burglaries are on the rise. Travel in pairs or groups; keep wallets in safe pockets, purses under arms; lock all car doors and trunks; ignore black market money activities. Groups of Gypsies are known to have used razors to empty contents of purses and used mace or similar substances to disable victims. Tap water is largely considered fit to drink in Bratislava. In rural areas, boil water or use bottled mineral or spring water. The months of November through February or March often witness heavy snowfall, which is not adequately cleared from many rural roads. Roads in the mountainous northern part of the country are more prone to hazardous conditions during winter months than roads elsewhere. For travel to mountain and ski resorts,

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Organized crime factions in Slovakia appear to be engaging in a power struggle at this time. While not directed against Americans or other foreign visitors, A number of gangland-style slayings have occurred over the past years, including fatal shootings at or near major hotels. Visitors are encouraged to obtain the latest information at the Consular Section of the Embassy. In addition, and particularly in the summer, pickpocketing is common in shopping centers, in the vicinity of major hotels where foreigners stay, near major tourist sites, and on night trains, especially Prague-Bratislava-Budapest or Budapest-Warsaw. The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.



Slovakia is strict on: Drugs. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Slovakia are strict and convicted offenders can expect jail sentences and heavy fines.

WEATHER

http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

Http://www.weatherunderground.com/

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: There are no uniform restrictions in Slovakia. Except for summer months, fall/winter clothing is recommended. Umbrellas are recommended, especially Sep-May.

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for

SLOVAKIA